

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 6, 2015
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 408

Introduced by Senator Morrell

February 25, 2015

An act to add Section 2516.5 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 408, as amended, Morrell. Midwife assistants.

The Licensed Midwifery Practice Act of 1993 provides for the licensing and regulation of midwives by the Medical Board of California. The license to practice midwifery authorizes the ~~holder, under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon, as specified,~~ holder to attend cases of normal childbirth and to provide prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care, including family planning care, for the mother, and immediate care for the newborn. ~~The act~~ *Licensed Midwifery Practice Act of 1993* requires a midwife to ~~immediately refer all complications to a physician and surgeon.~~ *surgeon under prescribed circumstances.* A violation of the ~~act~~ *Licensed Midwifery Practice Act of 1993* is a crime.

The Nursing Practice Act provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of nursing by the Board of Registered Nursing and authorizes the board to issue a certificate to practice nurse-midwifery to a person who meets educational standards established by the board or the equivalent of those educational standards. The Nursing Practice Act authorizes a certified nurse-midwife, under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon, to attend cases of normal childbirth and to provide prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care, including

family-planning care, for the mother, and immediate care for the newborn, and provides that the practice of nurse-midwifery constitutes the furthering or undertaking by a certified person, under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon who has current practice or training in obstetrics, to assist a woman in childbirth so long as progress meets criteria accepted as normal.

This bill would authorize a midwife assistant to perform certain assistive activities under the supervision of a licensed ~~midwife~~, *midwife or certified nurse-midwife*, including the administration of medicine, the withdrawing of blood, and midwife technical support services. The bill would define terms for these purposes. The bill would prohibit a midwife assistant from being employed for inpatient care in a licensed general acute care hospital. By adding new requirements and prohibitions to the ~~act~~, *Licensed Midwifery Practice Act of 1993*, the violation of which would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2516.5 is added to the Business and
2 Professions Code, to read:
3 2516.5. (a) As used in this section, the following definitions
4 apply:
5 (1) “Midwife assistant” means a person, who may be unlicensed,
6 who performs basic administrative, clerical, and midwife technical
7 supportive services in accordance with this chapter for a licensed
8 ~~midwife~~, *midwife or certified nurse-midwife*, is at least 18 years
9 of age, and has had at least the minimum amount of hours of
10 appropriate training pursuant to standards established by the board
11 for a medical assistant pursuant to Section 2069. The midwife
12 assistant shall be issued a certificate by the training institution or
13 instructor indicating satisfactory completion of the required

1 training. Each employer of the midwife assistant or the midwife
2 assistant shall retain a copy of the certificate as a record.

3 (2) “Midwife technical supportive services” means simple
4 routine medical tasks and procedures that may be safely performed
5 by a midwife assistant who has limited training and who functions
6 under the supervision of a licensed ~~midwife~~. *midwife or certified*
7 *nurse-midwife*.

8 (3) “Specific authorization” means a specific written order
9 prepared by the supervising midwife *or supervising nurse-midwife*
10 authorizing the procedures to be performed on a patient, which
11 shall be placed in the patient’s medical record, or a standing order
12 prepared by the supervising midwife *or supervising nurse-midwife*
13 authorizing the procedures to be performed. A notation of the
14 standing order shall be placed in the patient’s medical record.

15 (4) “Supervision” means the supervision of procedures
16 authorized by this section by a licensed ~~midwife~~. *midwife or*
17 *certified nurse-midwife*, within his or her scope of practice, who
18 is physically present on the premises during the performance of
19 those procedures.

20 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a midwife
21 assistant may do all of the following:

22 (1) Administer medication only by intradermal, subcutaneous,
23 or intramuscular injections and perform skin tests and additional
24 technical support services upon the specific authorization and
25 supervision of a licensed ~~midwife~~. *midwife or certified*
26 *nurse-midwife*. A midwife assistant may also perform all these
27 tasks and services in a clinic licensed in accordance with
28 subdivision (a) of Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code
29 upon the specific authorization of a licensed ~~midwife~~. *midwife or*
30 *certified nurse-midwife*.

31 (2) Perform venipuncture or skin puncture for the purposes of
32 withdrawing blood upon specific authorization and under the
33 supervision of a licensed midwife *or certified nurse-midwife*, if
34 the midwife assistant has met the educational and training
35 requirements for medical assistants as established in Section 2070.
36 Each employer of the assistant shall retain a copy of any related
37 certificates as a record.

38 (3) Perform the following midwife technical support services:

39 (A) Administer medications orally, sublingually, topically, or
40 rectally, or by providing a single dose to a patient for immediate

1 self-administration, and administer oxygen at the direction of the
2 supervising licensed ~~midwife~~; *midwife or certified nurse-midwife*.
3 The licensed *midwife or certified nurse-midwife* shall verify the
4 correct medication and dosage before the midwife assistant
5 administers medication.

6 (B) Assist in immediate newborn care when the licensed
7 *midwife or certified nurse-midwife* is engaged in a concurrent
8 activity that precludes the licensed *midwife or certified*
9 *nurse-midwife* from doing so.

10 (C) Assist in placement of the device used for auscultation of
11 fetal heart tones when a licensed *midwife or certified*
12 *nurse-midwife* is engaged in a concurrent activity that precludes
13 the licensed *midwife or certified nurse-midwife* from doing so.

14 (D) Collect by noninvasive techniques and preserve specimens
15 for testing, including, but not limited to, urine.

16 (E) Assist patients to and from a patient examination room, bed,
17 or bathroom.

18 (F) Assist patients in activities of daily living, such as assisting
19 with bathing or clothing.

20 (G) As authorized by the licensed ~~midwife~~; *midwife or certified*
21 *nurse-midwife*, provide patient information and instructions.

22 (H) Collect and record patient data, including height, weight,
23 temperature, pulse, respiration rate, blood pressure, and basic
24 information about the presenting and previous conditions.

25 (I) Perform simple laboratory and screening tests customarily
26 performed in a medical or midwife office.

27 (4) Perform additional midwife technical support services under
28 regulations and standards established by the board.

29 (c) (1) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing
30 the licensure of midwife assistants. Nothing in this section shall
31 be construed as authorizing the administration of local anesthetic
32 agents by a midwife assistant. Nothing in this section shall be
33 construed as authorizing the board to adopt any regulations that
34 violate the prohibitions on diagnosis or treatment in Section 2052.

35 (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing a
36 midwife assistant to perform any clinical laboratory test or
37 examination for which he or she is not authorized under Chapter
38 3 (commencing with Section 1200).

39 (d) Notwithstanding any other law, a midwife assistant shall
40 not be employed for inpatient care in a licensed general acute care

1 hospital as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1250 of the Health
2 and Safety Code.

3 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
4 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
5 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
6 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
7 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
8 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
9 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
10 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
11 Constitution.

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